

***from I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**  
**Selection Test A**

**Critical Reading** *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

- \_\_\_ 1. Who is the *I* in the autobiography titled *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?
- A. Momma
  - B. Mrs. Flowers
  - C. Bailey
  - D. Maya Angelou
- \_\_\_ 2. Which word or phrase does *not* apply to Momma in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?
- A. a good businesswoman
  - B. a good cook
  - C. impatient
  - D. energetic
- \_\_\_ 3. What food does the author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* especially like?
- A. pineapples
  - B. sugar cookies
  - C. licorice candy
  - D. meat pies
- \_\_\_ 4. How does the author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* feel about working in the Store?
- A. She would rather have been reading.
  - B. She finds it enjoyable.
  - C. She would rather have been cooking.
  - D. She finds it dull.
- \_\_\_ 5. In *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, who is Bailey?
- A. the author's brother
  - B. the author's dog
  - C. Momma's brother
  - D. Mrs. Flowers's son
- \_\_\_ 6. How does the author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* describe Mrs. Flowers?
- A. the richest white woman in town
  - B. proud and self-centered
  - C. the aristocrat of Black Stamps
  - D. an avid gardener

- \_\_\_ 7. What problem does Mrs. Flowers bring up with the author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?
- A. The author cheats customers in the store.
  - B. Teachers say the author does not speak.
  - C. The author is not doing well in school.
  - D. Momma is thinking of moving the Store.
- \_\_\_ 8. In *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, what main idea is supported by the paragraphs about Mrs. Flowers's reading voice?
- A. Mrs. Flowers reads quickly.
  - B. Mrs. Flowers reads without expression.
  - C. Mrs. Flowers's voice is musical.
  - D. Mrs. Flowers reads slowly.
- \_\_\_ 9. Of the following statements, which is an example of Mrs. Flowers's "lessons in living" in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?
- A. Appreciate wisdom gained over years of living.
  - B. Keep a house clean and ready for visitors.
  - C. Give generously to good causes.
  - D. Volunteer to help schoolchildren.
- \_\_\_ 10. Which character in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is the author describing in the following sentence?
- Her voice slid in and curved down through and over the words.
- A. Momma
  - B. a troubadour
  - C. Marguerite
  - D. Mrs. Flowers
- \_\_\_ 11. What does the author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* learn from Mrs. Flowers?
- A. She learns to have confidence in herself.
  - B. She learns to make tea cookies.
  - C. She learns to read.
  - D. She learns how to start a business.

### Vocabulary and Grammar

\_\_\_ 12. Which word best completes the following sentence?

The words of Mrs. Flowers \_\_\_\_\_ the author with hope.

- A. fiscal
- B. benign
- C. infuse
- D. intolerant

\_\_\_ 13. Which word in the following sentence is an adverb?

The small girl jumped quickly onto the swing.

- A. small
- B. girl
- C. jumped
- D. quickly

\_\_\_ 14. Which word or phrase is closest in meaning to *intolerant*?

- A. indecisive
- B. not willing to accept
- C. not able to accomplish
- D. flexible

\_\_\_ 15. Which of the sentences contains an adverb?

- A. Tom went to football practice.
- B. The team ran steadily for half an hour.
- C. Tom found the practices challenging.
- D. He hoped the team would win.

### Essay

16. Write a brief essay in which you explain why the author admires Mrs. Flowers. Consider thoughts the author has about Mrs. Flowers both before and during her visit to the woman's home. What things does the author observe? What, in particular, does the author admire? Be sure to use specific examples in your answer.
17. Maya Angelou has many memories of her grandmother's store. In an essay, describe the Store. Include details about products the store offered, how the Store was important to the town, and how the author felt about the Store.